

CLAIMS:

1. Towing device for a motor vehicle, comprising a ball neck having a coupling ball and movable in an electrically controlled manner to and from an operative position and an inoperative position, wherein

a receiving element for the ball neck is fastenable to a vehicle body, and an inserted rotary block swivellably holds and supports the ball neck therein such that, in the operative position, the rotary block is substantially fixedly held in one of a plurality of loading directions in a stationarily fixed manner in the receiving element.

2. Towing device according to Claim 1, wherein the receiving element has a carrier part which, on the end sides thereof, is connected with carriers so as to be fastenable to the body of the vehicle.

3. Towing device according to Claim 2, wherein the ball neck is swivellable via an angularly bent joined arm in a rotary block operatively held in the carrier part about a vertical axis, such that the rotary block and the ball neck are swivellable about a horizontal axis.

4. Towing device according to Claim 3, wherein the rotary block is arranged with lateral surfaces thereof between legs of the carrier part and is at least one of supported on interior surfaces of the legs by stop disks of a pin containing the horizontal axis, and held in position by at least one of a face-side torsion stop and a detent of a swivelling lever.

5. Towing device according to Claim 4, wherein the torsion stop comprises a nose which is stationarily connected

with the carrier part, projects into a face-side recess of the rotary block and is supported on surfaces of the recess.

6. Towing device according to Claim 4, wherein, in the operative position, during a tractive force in a first direction, the ball neck is supported in the rotary block which is supported by the stop disk on an interior surface of one of the legs on the carrier part, the nose of the torsion stop projecting into a face-side recess of the rotary block and being situated opposite a supporting surface.

7. Towing device according to Claim 6, wherein the torsion stop comprises a nose which is stationarily connected with the carrier part, projects into a face-side recess of the rotary block and is supported on surfaces of the recess.

8. Towing device according to Claim 4, wherein the swivelling lever is fixedly connected with the joined arm of the ball neck and comprises a projecting detent at one end thereof, the detent, in the operative position, projecting into a slot of the one leg of the carrier part, and the swivelling lever, at another end thereof, being connected with a spindle adjusting element.

9. Towing device according to Claim 4, wherein, in the operative position of the ball neck, during a pressure force in an upward direction, the ball neck is supportable in the rotary block and, via the detent of the swivelling lever, with respect to the carrier part.

10. Towing device according to Claim 4, wherein, in the operative position of the ball neck, during a supporting force in a downward direction, the rotary block is supportably held by at least one of the face-side torsion stops on a supporting

surface and the detent of the swivelling lever.

11. Towing device according to Claim 8, wherein, during a lateral force in a particular direction, the ball neck is supportable via the swivelling lever and the spindle adjusting element disposed thereon, which spindle adjusting element has a self-locking thread.

12. Towing device according to Claim 11, wherein the spindle of the adjusting element is arranged to be driven by a motor, and, with lateral forces in the particular direction acting upon the adjusting element, the spindle is configured to be automatically readjusted such that the ball neck is held in a secured position in the operative position.

13. Towing device according to Claim 4, wherein, in the operative position, during a lateral force in a particular direction, the ball neck is supportable by the swivelling lever on the face-side torsion stop arranged in the recess on a surface of the stop.

14. Towing device according to Claim 4, wherein, in the operative position, during a pressure force in a particular direction, the ball neck is supportable in the rotary block which is supported directly in the carrier part via a projecting surface and the stop disk.